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Navy, Air Force Linked To Domestic Spy Setup

By JOHN S. LANG

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secret military guidelines give the Navy and Air Force domestic intelligence gathering duties similar to those of the Army, which a senator says has spied on members of Congress and hundreds of other civilians.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press, including one stamped "secret" on every page, state the two military branches have "investigative and reporting requirements relating to civil disturbances and dissident or subversive activities . . ."

Until now little has been known about Navy and Air Force domestic intelligence operations, although the Army's activities in this field — undertaken under similar guidelines — have been the subject of a year-long controversy.

THE FOUR flared again yesterday when Sen. Sam Ervin, D-N.C., said Army agents had collected information on Sen. Adlai Stevenson III, D-Ill.; former Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner, now a federal judge; and Rep. Abner Mikva, D-Ill.

Ervin, chairman of the Sen-

ate subcommittee on constitutional rights and a long-time crusader against invasion of privacy, said military agents also snooped on the activities of state and local officials, political contributors, newspaper reporters, lawyers and church figures.

His information, Ervin said, was supplied by a former Army agent who wrote that his team "was collecting information on every individual and organization in the state of Illinois who espoused discontent with the military involvement in Southeast Asia or who openly opposed the Nixon administration's controversial domestic policies . . ."

Later, a spokesman said the Army is gravely concerned by the reports and is looking into them. He added that Army policy emphatically prohibits collection of information of the type reportedly gathered in Illinois.

AND WHITE HOUSE press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said in response to a question: "It's inconceivable to me that that would take place. We certainly don't condone it."

Another former military intelligence agent said in an AP interview last night that simi-

lar data had been collected by Army agents in other sections of the country.

As an example, he cited information he said was compiled by the Army in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area during April and May of 1968.

This former agent, who would not allow use of his name, said the files, consisting of index cards naming individuals and groups, were being discarded by the Army.

There have been earlier reports that other regional military intelligence centers were building files on civilians.

NBC television, for instance, reported Dec. 1 that agents in Washington had compiled dossiers on many private citizens, including Sen. J. W. Fulbright, D-Ark.

Still other reports have indicated that military intelligence agents had mingled among delegates at the 1968 Democratic and Republican conventions.

The documents obtained by the AP do not name individuals on whom Air Force and Navy agents collect data. Rather, they trace the broad guidelines under which the agents operate.